Pierce County Library System says thank you for being a Friend

TACOMA – Friends of Pierce County Library System and Pierce County Library Foundation are the backbone that keeps the Library System running and humming throughout Pierce County communities. Oct. 21-27 marks National Friends of Libraries Week which recognizes and celebrates friends and foundation groups for volunteering time and resources to help support libraries.

“Pierce County Library’s Friends and Foundation provide immeasurable support and help in all 18 of our libraries,” said Neel Parikh, executive director for the Library. “They help extend offerings and allow staff to give better and more service to the hundreds of thousands of people we serve. They also give a voice in the community and share information about services. I salute and thank them.”

Friends groups support their community library in many areas:
- Raising funds through book sales and other activities.
- Advocating and raising awareness about library services, needs and goals in the community.

In 2011 Friends of the Libraries contributed $81,400 for library needs. Last year FRIENDS of Lakewood Library donated funds to Lakewood Pierce County Library to add great places for children to learn and play. Friends of the South Hill Library contributed money for early learning spaces, which includes a castle-fort and puppet theater to foster children’s imaginations.

Last year the Foundation awarded $229,959 to bring books to children in day care centers and helped give people resources and skills to compete in the job market. The Foundation:
- Connects vital literacy and information resources beyond the scope of tax-based funding.
- Seeks funding from charitable foundations, businesses and individuals.

Along with other recognition, to celebrate National Friends of Libraries week, Pierce County Library’s Board of Trustees is issuing a proclamation at its Oct. 17 meeting.

“Libraries have changed through the years, with the main mission remaining the same—to be a welcoming place for everyone and an information and idea source for all,” said Barbara Trimble, a member of Friends of the University Place Library. “Budgets often cannot stretch to cover all needs, so volunteers step in and donate their time and talents to raise funds to help our communities.”

To join a Friends group and support a local library visit any Pierce County Library. People may also drop off used books, movies and magazines at any library, and Friends of the Libraries will use them in their books and materials sales. To donate to the Foundation or apply to become a Foundation Board of Director visit www.piercecountylibrary.org search site: Foundation.


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